

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : Mariko KURODA et al. Group Art Unit : Not Yet Assigned  
Appl. No. : 10/579,449 Examiner : Not Yet Assigned  
(National Stage of PCT/JP2004/017082)  
I.A. Filed : November 17, 2004 Confirmation No. : 8465  
For : HOLLOW FIBER MEMBERANE FOR BLOOD PURIFICATION AND  
BLOOD PURIFICATION APPARATUS USING THE SAME

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Customer Service Window, Mail Stop AMENDMENT  
Randolph Building  
401 Dulany Street  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.56, 1.97, and 1.98, Applicant hereby brings the following information to the attention of the Examiner, which includes information cited and discussed in the specification and the International Search Report issued in connection with counterpart International Application No. PCT/JP2004/017082. Copies of the International Search Report (in English and Japanese) were enclosed with the papers when entering the National Stage on May 16, 2006. The Examiner is invited to review these materials to inspect the relevance indicated during international examination with respect to the documents cited therein.

- (1) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 6-7431, along with family member U.S. Patent No. 5,407,581 to ONODERA et al., which issued on April 18, 1995;
- (2) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-243999, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and
- (3) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-70524, (apparently mistakenly listed as 09-79524) along with patent family member U.S. Patent No. 6,355,730 to KOZAWA et al., which issued on March 12, 2002;

Applicants further submit the following documents.

- (4) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 4-300636, together with an English language Abstract of the same;
- (5) Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. 2003-033432, together with an English language Abstract of the same; and
- (6) "The high performance membrane for hemodialysis stuff," Tokyo Igakusha Co., Ltd., pages 130-131 (1990).

Applicants note that documents (1), (3), (5)-(7) are cited on page 6 of the specification of the above-captioned application.

Further to 37 C.F.R. §1.98 (a)(2)(ii), copies of the U.S. patents are not enclosed herewith. However, if any copy is needed, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the above material and cite the same. Copies of the above-noted foreign documents, including the noted English language Abstracts, are attached hereto, and all of the above-noted documents

are listed on an attached PTO-1449 Form. The Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached Form and to return a copy of the completed Form to Applicants with the next official communication in the present application.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)(1), this Information Disclosure Statement is filed within three months of the filing date of the application. Accordingly, no fees are required.

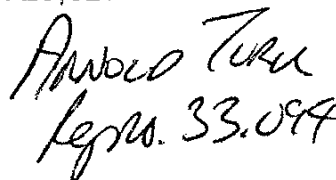
Should the Examiner have any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mariko KURODA et al.



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August 16, 2006  
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Sept. 33.097

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